

the following paragraph. A marked-up copy of the original paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--Reference Example--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 5 as follows. A marked-up copy of the claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

1. (Three Times Amended) A gel electrolyte comprising:
a gelling agent forming a fibrous body; and
an ionically conductive material, which is liquid at working temperature and which is held in the fibrous body by said gelling agent,
wherein said gelling agent substantially does not free an aldehyde at room temperature and in the presence of water,
wherein the fibrous body is associated via intermolecular bonding, and
wherein said gelling agent is a non-polymeric gelling agent.

Kindly add new claims 8 and 9 as follows:

8. (New) A gel electrolyte according to claim 1, wherein said gelling agent has a structure that does not free the aldehyde.
9. (New) A gel electrolyte according to claim 1, wherein said gelling agent is a compound having self-assembling characteristics.